Director General of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research to advise the Government on all aspects relating to Global Warming in the Indian, regional and global context, assist in the promotion and coordination of multi-institutional and multi-disciplinery studies in the area and to assess and monitor research projects in the relevant areas. The Committee consists of eminent scientists from various fields and senior Government officials.

Rivers Identified for clearance from Pollution

111. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the rivers in the country which have been identified for clearance from pollution during the last six months; and

(b) by when the work for clearing them will start?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) The polluted stretches of rivers that have been identified during the last six months for cleaning and restoration of water quality include. Sabarmati, Subarnarekha, Godavari, Krishna, Indus, Sutlej, Yamuna, Hindon, Chambal, Damodar, Gomti and Kali.

(b) Action for prevention and control of pollution has been initiated by the State Pollution Control Boards.

Cooperation of villagers around forests to development forests

'112. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to seek cooperation of villagers living around forests in order to develop forests, check illegal grazing of cattle by meeting their needs for fuel and grazing fields;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal in this regard; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in negative, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) Guidelines have been issued by the Central Government to State Governments for involvement of village communities and voluntary agencies for regeneration of degraded forest lands.

(b) and (c) Details of the guidelines are given in the statement.

Statement

Guidelines issued to State Governments for involvement of village communities and voluntary agencies for regeneration of degraded forest lands

(i) The programme should be implemented under an arrangement between the Voluntary Agency/NGO, the village community (beneficiaries) and the State Forest Department.

(ii) No ownership or lease rights over the forest land should be given to the beneficiaries or to the Voluntary Agency/NGO. Nor should the forest land be assigned in contravention of the provisions contained in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(iii) The beneficiaries should be entitled to a share in usufructs to the extent and subject to the conditions prescribed by the State Government in this behalf. The Voluntary Agency INGO. Nor should the entitled to usufructory benefits.

(iv) Access to forest land and usufructory benefits should be only to the beneficiaries who get organised into a village institution.